

Wicking fabrics may be non-absorbent. Wicking fabrics may include a system of fibers that work like capillaries to carry water. Wicking fabrics may have surface texture, for example, puckers in the fabric may increase the surface area and enhance evaporation. Wicking outer layer 36 may also be a surface treatment, for example, a liquid or spray that may be applied to an outer surface of impermeable inner layer 32. The surface treatment may be a surfactant (e.g., Woolite®) that decreases water surface tension and promotes wetting of fabric.

[0033] In some embodiments of the invention, a semi-impermeable layer may be substituted for impermeable layer 32. The semi-impermeable layer may be at least impermeable to liquid water, but semi-impermeable to water vapor, such as a GORE-TEX® type of material.

[0034] Human 24 may excrete or exude liquid sweat 40 from skin 26. If no undergarment 28 is present, liquid sweat 40 may evaporate directly from skin 26, pass through air space 30 as sweat vapor, and condense on inner surface 34 as condensed sweat 42. If undergarment 28 is present, liquid sweat 40 may pass through undergarment 28, evaporate from undergarment 28, pass through air space 30 as sweat vapor, and condense on inner surface 34 as re-condensed liquid sweat 42. In either case, skin 26 may be directly or indirectly cooled by evaporation of liquid sweat 40.

[0035] As will be described in more detail below, condensed sweat 42 may be collected and transported to wicking outer layer 36. In addition or alternatively, liquid sweat 40 that may not have evaporated may be collected and transported through impermeable inner layer 32 to wicking outer layer 36. On or in wicking outer layer 36, the transported sweat 44 may evaporate from external surface 38 of garment 10. Evaporation of transported sweat 44 from external surface 38 may cool wicking outer layer 36, thereby indirectly cooling impermeable inner layer 32, air space 30, and human 24. It should be noted that, in some embodiments of garment 10, wicking outer layer 36 may be included only in selected areas of garment 10. For example, wicking outer layer 36 may be included on areas of garment 10 that are near to areas of human 24 which exhibit the greatest increases in sweat rate when the core temperature of human 24 increases. Such areas of higher sweat rates in human 24 may be, for example, the head, torso, arms, and upper legs.

[0036] FIG. 3 is a schematic, cutaway, side view of one embodiment of a boot 14. Boot 14 may be made integral with garment 10 or may be removable separately from the remainder of garment 10. Boot 14 may include a pump 50, a forward insole 52, and a rear insole 54. Forward insole 52 and rear insole 54 may include pores 56. Condensed sweat 42 from inner surface 34 of garment 10 and/or unevaporated sweat 40 may accumulate in boot 14 and pass through pores 56 into a bottom area 58 of boot 14. From bottom area 58, the accumulated sweat may enter inlet tubing 60 and thence reservoir 62. A check or one-way valve 64 may be disposed in inlet tubing 60 to prevent flow from reservoir 62 into bottom area 58. Reservoir 62 may be, for example, an elastic or flexible bladder. Rear insole 54 may be, for example, an elastic membrane.

[0037] The intermittent force of the heel of human 24 on rear insole 54 and reservoir 62 may pump collected sweat from reservoir 62 through an outlet tubing 66 and, ultimately, through impermeable inner layer 32 to wicking outer layer 36. A check valve or one-way valve 64 may be disposed in outlet tubing 66 to prevent backflow into reservoir 62. A

quick-disconnect coupling 68 may be included in outlet tubing 66, particularly if boot 14 is a removable type boot.

[0038] FIG. 4 is a schematic, cutaway, side view of one embodiment of a pump 70 located near an elbow 72 of human 24. Pump 70 may include an elastic or flexible bladder 74 for containing unevaporated and/or condensed sweat. Bladder 74 may be connected to inlet tubing 76 and outlet tubing 78. A flexible shaft 80 may have one end fixed to upper arm 82 with adjustable strap 84 and another end that extends toward lower arm 86 and bears on bladder 74. Inner surface 34 of impermeable layer 32 may include a reservoir 88 for collecting unevaporated sweat and/or sweat that has condensed on inner surface 34. Reservoir 88 may be in the form of, for example, a flexible, semi-rigid, or rigid gutter 87 with one end 89 fixed to surface 34. Gutter 87 may extend circumferentially (partially or completely) around the inner surface 34 of a sleeve 90 of garment 10. Gutter 87 may be made of, for example, a plastic material covered with a waterproof fabric.

[0039] Movement of elbow joint 72 may cause pump 70 to transport accumulated sweat from reservoir 88 via inlet tubing 76 to outlet tubing 78 and, ultimately, through impermeable inner layer 32 to wicking outer layer 36. Check valves 64 may be disposed in inlet tubing 76 and outlet tubing 78. A quick-disconnect coupling 68 may be included in outlet tubing 78 to facilitate set-up of garment 10 and to provide an option to use or not use pump 70.

[0040] FIG. 5 is a schematic front view of one embodiment of a pump 92 located on a torso 94 of human 24. Pump 92 may be located on the lower chest so that inspiration movements of human 24 may cause elastic bladder 96 to decrease in volume. Bladder 96 may be attached to human 24 using, for example, an adjustable strap 98 that may extend around torso 94. A reservoir 100 may be disposed on an inner surface 34 of impermeable layer 32. Reservoir 100 may be in the form of, for example, a flexible, semi-rigid, or rigid gutter 101 with one end 102 fixed to surface 34. Gutter 101 may extend circumferentially (partially or completely) around the inner surface 34 of a torso portion 104 of garment 10. Gutter 101 may be made of, for example, a plastic material covered with a waterproof fabric. Inlet tubing 106 may extend from pump 92 to an opening 103 in gutter 101.

[0041] Breathing movements of human 24 may cause pump 92 to transport sweat from reservoir 100 through opening 103 and inlet tubing 106 and then to outlet tubing 108 and, ultimately, through impermeable inner layer 32 to wicking outer layer 36. Check valves 64 may be disposed in inlet tubing 106 and outlet tubing 108. A quick-disconnect coupling 68 may be included in outlet tubing 108 to facilitate set-up of garment 10 and to provide an option to use or not use pump 92. In lieu of pump 92, one or more downspouts in the form of tubing 105 (internal to torso portion 104 of garment 10) may carry contents of reservoir 100 to bottom area 58 of boot 14 or to reservoir 62 in boot 14.

[0042] As discussed above, pumps 50, 70, and 92 may be powered by the natural movements of human 24 that may occur while performing a task. "Natural body movements" are not movements of human 24 that are consciously and specifically directed to only actuating a pump. One or more of pumps 50, 70, 92 may be used in various combination and numbers. For example, a multiplicity of pumps may be arrayed circumferentially around elbows, knees, waist, shoulder, underarm, hip and other areas such that the action of bending at these locations may result in bladder compression and fluid output, and straightening at these locations may